

PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT (OPTIONAL)

I. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The City's mission statement establishes the organizational goal for Fort Lauderdale. To this end, the Fort Lauderdale Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) seeks to serve the community consistent with its apparent needs, reasonable expectations and expressed demands for leisure and aesthetically oriented public services. Further, the Department strives to provide and promote a quality standard of living and distinctive recreational opportunities for all who reside, work or visit in the City. The Department formally states its mission as follows:

“The Mission of the Fort Lauderdale Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide citizens and visitors the opportunity to participate in quality leisure programs and activities, in an aesthetically pleasing and safe environment, at a reasonable cost to the user. The community is to be provided with well-maintained parks, open space, beaches and roadway landscaping that communicates and compliments the spirit and tropical beauty of the Fort Lauderdale area.”

In the effort to carry out this mission, the Department has established several broadly stated goals toward improving the quality of services and its service delivery capabilities. For each of these goals there are associated policy statements which have been developed to support and measure the accomplishment of the goals.

GOAL 1: The department will provide adequate land in an equitably distributed manner to meet public recreation space needs.

OBJECTIVE 1.1: The City will provide park land and open space to meet the level of service standards established in the Policies and elsewhere in this Element.

POLICY 1.1.1: The Parks Division shall continue to maintain a computerized inventory and map of all public recreational lands.

POLICY 1.1.2: Consistent with the City's rezoning effort, all park sites are to be zoned P for Parks.

POLICY 1.1.3: The City shall continue to provide 1.0 acre of neighborhood and school-park land for each one thousand residents.

POLICY 1.1.4: The City shall continue to provide 2.0 acres of community and large urban parkland for each one thousand residents.

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POLICY 1.1.5: Special Use Facilities/Parks will continue to be provided by the City of Fort Lauderdale to meet public needs.

POLICY 1.1.6: No park land shall be diverted to other uses except in instances of overriding public interest, in which case it will be effectively replaced.

POLICY 1.1.7: The City shall provide at least 20% land area in order to accommodate the open space needs of its residential development. Such open space shall include pastoral, utilitarian, and corridor spaces.

POLICY 1.1.8: In order to ensure that the allocation of parklands are equitably distributed, the City of Fort Lauderdale shall give high priority in developing its park system based on a service radius calculation (e.g.: Mini-Parks = ¼ mile, Neighborhood and School-Parks = ½ mile, Community Parks = 2 miles, Large Urban Park, and Special Use Facilities/Parks = 30 minute drive time).

POLICY 1.1.9: The City shall comply with the Broward County Regional Park Level of Service standard of 3 acres per 1000 population.

GOAL 2: Establish and preserve an appropriate open space system to protect public health, safety and welfare, and assure retention of aesthetic and environmental amenities.

OBJECTIVE 2.1: The City shall improve its visual attractiveness as possible, both through positive measures of orderly development and beautification as well as consistent efforts to avoid, remove, or diminish the impact of unsightly features.

POLICY 2.1.1: The City's Land Development Regulations shall require adequate landscaping of public projects, as well as private development. The City's adopted Land Development Regulations will be implemented consistent with Section 163.3202 (1), F.S.

POLICY 2.1.2: The City's provision of public open spaces shall be consistent with the Goals, Objectives and Policies of related Elements of the Comprehensive Plan (Land Use, Conservation, Coastal Management, et. al.).

POLICY 2.1.3: The City shall discourage development, within or adjacent to unique natural areas, where such activity will have significant detrimental effects on the aesthetic and environmental quality of the unique natural areas.

POLICY 2.1.4: The City shall follow standard design guidelines for all recreational and open space adhering to current Natural Resource Protection

(Optional) - Parks and Recreation Element - GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Areas (NRPA) and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) concepts/guidelines.

POLICY 2.1.5: The Parks Division shall utilize native plant materials where appropriate in development of new parks, redevelopment of existing sites, and at other public locations to achieve the benefits associated with such materials (lower maintenance costs, habitat provision, drought tolerance, etc.)

POLICY 2.1.6: The City shall upgrade and modernize parks through the implementation of maintenance standards and the ongoing five year Capital Improvement Program.

GOAL 3: Provide and maintain diverse parks, recreation facilities and activities of high quality for all residents.

OBJECTIVE 3.1: The City shall utilize the following Local Facility guidelines (LFG), whenever feasible, so as to provide adequate recreational facilities through the life of the plan.

- a. One baseball/softball field per 5,000 residents aged 5-34.
- b. One basketball court per 4,000 residents aged 10-34.
- c. One tennis court per 2,000 residents aged 10-84.
- d. One football /soccer field per 5,000 residents aged 5-34.
- e. One handball/racquetball court per 12,000 residents aged 10-59.
- f. One playground per 1,000 residents aged 5-14.
- g. One community center per 25,000 residents of all ages, with all residents to be within three miles of a center.
- h. One volleyball court per 6,000 residents aged 15-34.
- i. One roller hockey rink per 20,000 residents aged 5-34.

POLICY 3.1.1: The City shall continue and expand the use of cooperative agreements with public and private schools, surrounding jurisdictions, nonprofit agencies, churches and the private sector to assure facilities for active recreational opportunities year-round.

POLICY 3.1.2: The City shall allocate sufficient funds to adequately supervise and maintain existing parks and recreational facilities in order to protect the public investment.

POLICY 3.1.3: Every five years the City shall reassess the ability of existing sites and facilities to meet the changing needs of the population to be served.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES - (Optional) - Parks and Recreation

POLICY 3.1.4: Through its' Park Ranger program, the City shall give high priority to public safety at park and recreation sites.

OBJECTIVE 3.2: The City will ensure that 100% of all recreational sites are accessible to all residents and visitors by 2015.

POLICY 3.2.1: The City shall centrally locate new park and recreation facilities in the neighborhood area to be served whenever possible.

POLICY 3.2.2: The City shall coordinate, with Broward County, present and future recreation sites with existing and planned transportation systems (including transit-routes).

POLICY 3.2.3: The City shall provide for bicycle and pedestrian access to parks and recreational facilities, especially in the case of neighborhood- serving sites.

POLICY 3.2.4: The City shall require accessibility for all residents, including elderly, handicapped, and economically disadvantaged others with special mobility needs, as a design criteria for new facilities and shall "retrofit" all existing sites by 2015.

OBJECTIVE 3.3: The City shall continue and expand efforts to ensure public awareness and utilization of park and recreational programs and facilities throughout the life of the plan.

POLICY 3.3.1: The City will gather and analyze participation and usage data as a measure of programing success and utilization effectiveness.

POLICY 3.3.2: The City will conduct one annual city-wide survey of the population to determine the adequacy of and quality of services and to determine areas of dissatisfaction and need.

POLICY 3.3.3: The City shall utilize program evaluations to determine and document user satisfaction and preferences in recreational and special programming.

POLICY 3.3.4: The City shall administer survey sampling in all parks on an ongoing basis to update/address park maintenance concerns and recreational needs.

(Optional) - Parks and Recreation Element - GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

POLICY 3.3.5: The City shall obtain public input into all park planning and design decisions.

POLICY 3.3.6: In order to reflect current or updated needs, every five years, the City shall review facilities, amenities and recreational programs offered at each neighborhood and community park. This assessment shall include community input.

POLICY 3.3.7: The City shall maintain a balance of recreational interests among members serving on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

POLICY 3.3.8: The City shall research and initiate new recreation facilities and programs to expand recreational opportunities available to residents.

GOAL 4: Develop new funding sources for expansion of parks and recreation facilities and make use of all available funding sources in the provision of quality recreation and open space opportunities.

OBJECTIVE 4.1: Because the City's park requirements may change in the future due to unforeseen growth or future annexations, the City of Fort Lauderdale shall continue to monitor levels of service for parks and open space, and , if necessary, shall identify and implement alternative funding mechanisms and programs to provide for parks and open space.

POLICY 4.1.1: Assure and improve continued public access to existing Recreation and Open Space, particularly as related to the public beach and boating and fishing areas.

POLICY 4.1.2: Where the School Board of Broward County has facilities for recreation established, and because there is no need for duplication of services, the City of Fort Lauderdale shall propose agreements for joint use of these facilities. For the purpose of outdoor recreation, school facilities may be considered equivalent to a neighborhood or community park within traditional city boundaries or in other infill areas where the shortage of suitable vacant sites makes acquisition of additional park acreage unfeasible. This substitution may only be used where satisfactory interlocal use agreements have been negotiated. The City of Fort Lauderdale shall identify potential locations for joint use, with priority given to neighborhood areas experiencing a deficiency.

POLICY 4.1.3: The City shall continue and enhance use of subdivision reviews, DRIs, planned unit developments and other mechanisms to provide recreation space.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES - (Optional) - Parks and Recreation

POLICY 4.1.4: The City shall maintain and improve the existing recreation lands and encourage the dedication of properties for recreation uses through appropriate incentives.

POLICY 4.1.5: Proposed park sites, and existing park sites scheduled to be renovated, shall be evaluated as to their existing and potential environmental quality and their impact on the City's park levels of service. The City of Fort Lauderdale shall consider the following as park projects are undertaken, particularly projects utilizing or attempting to obtain federal and/or state grants:

1. The project's ability to maintain or improve park levels of service;
2. The protection of Endangered and Threatened Species and Species of Special Concern, including rare or threatened vegetative communities;
3. The enhancement or restoration of natural areas and shoreline ecosystems, and the removal of nuisance and/or exotic vegetation;
4. The creation or continuation of green way systems utilizing environmentally sensitive lands;
5. The preservation of large canopy trees;
6. The protection or improvement of groundwater quality and/or surface water quality;
7. The protection of natural resources from potential adverse impacts associated with uses or activities on adjacent lands, including a land use compatibility analysis and the provision of wetland buffers and buffer yards in the Growth Management Plan and Land Development Code. Where applicable, the City shall ensure that the above mentioned environmental systems are protected, preserved, and/or enhanced.

OBJECTIVE 4.2: The Parks and Recreation Department shall prepare and maintain a coordinated five-year Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program.

POLICY 4.2.1: Projects included in the Capital Improvement Program related to park and recreation facilities shall be arrayed in rank order, with a relative priority being determined by:

- a. Public Safety
- b. Protection of the City's investments
- c. Upgrading and replacement of existing sites, and
- d. Need for new facilities and expansion

POLICY 4.2.2: The Capital Improvement Program related to parks and recreation facilities will be updated annually by the Parks and Recreation Department.

(Optional) - Parks and Recreation Element - GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

OBJECTIVE 4.3: The City shall recognize the significant role leisure provision plays in economic prosperity of the community.

POLICY 4.3.1: The Parks and Recreation Department shall assist the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor and Convention Bureau in promoting recreation activities and facilities to our visitors and residents by providing maps, brochures and up-to-date information as needed.

POLICY 4.3.2: Open Space recreational areas shall be used as incentives for redevelopment in deteriorating or underutilized areas of the City by giving priority to projects in eligible Community Development Block Grant Program Areas.

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